(ii) India and Singapore have signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) on 29 June, 2005 which became effective from 1 August, 2005. the CECA includes, *inter-alia,* free trade agreements in goods, services and investment.

(iii) The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) was signed by the SAARC member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) during the 12th SAARC Summit in Islamabad on 6 January, 2004. The Agreement covers goods only and has come into force from 1 January, 2006. The tariff liberalization programme under SAFTA is under implementation from 1 July, 2006.

(iv) India also has bilateral trade treaties with Nepal and Bhutan, under which duty-free access has been provided to goods from these two countries, on non-reciprocal basis.

(b) and(c) The Government assesses the overall gains from such agreements based on economic as well as geo-political considerations. The Free Trade Agreements have by and large enhanced bilateral trade and investment flows with these countries.

Increase in price of imported brass scrap

1652. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of brass parts industrial units in Jamnagar are facing closure due to steep increase in the prices of imported brass scrap;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 50,000 people are earning their livelihood from those units;

(c) whether the Jamnagar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) and Jamnagar Brass Parts Industry Factory Owner's Association have made representation to that effect to Government, for helping the industry, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committee for allotment of plots in SEZs

1653. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Committee authorized for allotment of plots in a SEZ;

(b) whether the developers of the SEZs have majority say in such committee;

(c) who owns the land in SEZ upon allotment; and

(d) whether the allotment is transferable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Government has not set up any committee for allotments of plots in a Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

(b) The allotment of plots in a SEZ is the prerogative of the Developer, however, allotments of plots in processing area of the SEZ can be made only to valid Letter of Approval holders.

(c) As per the provisions of the SEZ Rules, 2006 land in SEZ cannot be sold and for all times remains the ownership fo the developer or the Lessor in case the SEZ developer has taken the land on lease.

(d) All the Estate matters in a SEZ come under the purview of the Developer of that SEZ.

Resentment in Muslim Organisations against SEZs

1654. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: